

Weekend message Small group study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on **8/8/15 – 8/9/15**
- a meeting agenda organized per St. Paul core values
- estimated for a 90-minute meeting

Equipping “the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” –Eph. 4:12

Below is a tool to help delegate the leading/facilitating of meeting components between different small group members.

	Prayer (p.4)	Outreach (p.3)	Word of God (p.1)	Equipping (p. 4)	Worship - Our Redemption Response - (p.1)
Study component leader					

Prayer leader – Leads group prayer time

Outreach leader – Leads the charge of outreach (serving, inviting, filling the empty chair, etc.)

Word of God leader – Leads the Bible study time, encourages application of God’s Word to life

Equipping Leader – Coordinates and reminds who will lead the different meeting components.

Worship (Our Redemption Response) Leader – Leads worship time during meeting.

Worship – *Our Redemption Response*

5 minutes

All: **O, Jesus, You are the light of the world! God is light and You are the image of the invisible God, the radiance of His glory, the exact representation of His being. In You there is no darkness at all. You are the light for all people, the Sun of righteousness who alone illuminates the way to the Father. You reveal the truth of God to us, penetrating the fog of our confusion, burning off the morning mist of doubt. How radiant You are, O light of the world! Amen!**

Excerpt from *The NIV Worship Bible*, 2000, page 1436.

Word of God

45 minutes

1. How did you SEE God at work in your life this week?
2. What has God been teaching you in HIS WORD?

3. "Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, 'I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.'" (John 8:12 NLT)

Paul wrote in his letter to the Ephesians, "...they are hopelessly confused. Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity." (Ephesians 4:17b-19 NLT)

How did Paul describe those who walk in darkness? How do you see this in the world around you? How do you see this in the lives of people you know and love?

4. In Ephesians 4:22-5:7 Paul also described a life living in the light, a life following *Jesus: Light of the World*. Going through each verse use the space below to write down one word or phrase on what it means to live in the light.

4:22	4:23
4:24	4:25
4:26	4:27
4:28	4:29
4:30	4:31
4:32	5:1
5:2	5:3
5:4	5:5
5:6	5:7

5. Looking at the one words and phrase above, seem overwhelming at all to live in such a way? Why is that?
6. Paul went on to say, "For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true." (Ephesians 4:8-9 NLT)

What good news do you find in these verses? How are you equipped to actually live as a person of light?

Outreach

15 minutes

While Jesus called Himself the Light of the World, He also said of those who follow Him, "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:14-16 NLT)

Taking all of the above into account, how is it that we introduce *Jesus: Light of the World* to those in walking in darkness?

Excerpt from <http://craigmates.blogspot.com/2015/08/meet-jesus-day-13-of-40-light-of-world.html>.

Prayer

20 minutes

Share a prayer request based on what was discussed during this meeting's *Word of God* and/or *Outreach* time. What is that next step in your faith life God is calling you to make? What convicted you from God's Word and/or our discussion of His Word? Please also share a way in which the group may support/encourage you regarding what you've shared. Of course other important matters can be prayed about as well. After all have shared, pray for the person on your left (whether aloud or silently). Pray together in popcorn style (as opposed to going in order around a circle.)

Equipping *for coordinating next week's meeting...*

5 minutes

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